



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

August-2019

## Kids Stuff!

**P** sychologists will tell us that many of the things we like or dislike, actions we take or don't take as adults are a result of events that occurred when we were children. I remember, as a child, Roma Lodge meetings that were held above the Oasis Restaurant in Tulare in the Elks Hall meeting room. The hall had a hardwood floor, rows of elevated seats on each side and kids were not even allowed in the room when the meeting was in session!

I also remember the Mooney Grove lodge picnics with great food, baseball, bocce tournaments and fun for the whole family. We would join everyone for lunch, go home and milk cows and return for more food and fun until it got dark. I'm sure we all have memories of Roma Lodge activities over the past 89 years.



At our August meeting we will have our **Junior Member Night** which gives us an opportunity to do something special for our junior members. We

have 60 members 18 years of age or younger. They are the future of our lodge. I would bet we have the largest group of young members of any lodge in the state and we need to keep their interest in being Roma Lodge members.

We need to give special thanks to **Pam Sola** for being creative and having special activities for our junior members when they attend meetings and activities. These activities will ensure when these



young members become adults they will have their own families as members of Roma Lodge.

If you have children who are members of the lodge make plans to attend our Junior Member Night on August 5th at the IAC Social Hall. We are going to have a summer BBQ with all the kids favorites to eat, special back-to-school prizes for each of them and a great time for all. We will have their meal, prizes and other activities prior to the meeting so if they need to get home in a timely manner we can arrange for that as well. **See you then!**



Junior members with all their free back to school items at the Junior Member Night last year!

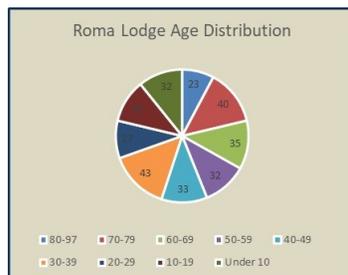
**A**t the Grand Lodge Convention **John Tedesco**, Grand Lodge past state president, addressed the delegation indicating that 20 years ago the Grand Lodge had over 20,000 members. I guess what he should have said was that local lodges had a combined membership of over 20,000 members. Now, membership has dropped near or under 4,000 members!

Only 16 of the 49 local lodges had an increase in membership last year with 302 new members and 382 members cancelling their membership. There were 150 members who passed away leaving a net **loss of 230 members!** It does not take a rocket scientist to determine if the local lodges continue to lose membership there will not be a Grand Lodge in the future.

Roma Lodge was listed as having lost only 1 member for 2018. The convention report indicated we were the largest lodge in the state with 299 members.

Here is our breakdown of members:

As seen in the chart our membership is very balanced with equal numbers in just about every age group which makes for a strong lodge.



It is often said if you are if you are not moving forward you are moving backwards. **So what is going to be Roma Lodge's plan for the future?**

## Membership

Let's increase our membership by 5%. That would be 15 new members. Did you know that in the last 7 years, lodge members have had **38** babies of which the majority have joined the lodge. **Yes 38.** Since we have 75 of our members ages 20-40 we will let them build membership through the process of having babies to increase our membership.

For the rest of us please talk to your friends who are of Italian descent and ask them to come to a meeting and encourage them to join. Ask them to checkout our website or volunteer at the farm show booth or ravioli dinner to determine if they would

like to join. We are a fraternal organization and we need to stress that to potential members.

## Columbus Day!

We all know that **Christopher Columbus** is under attack in America with the removal of his statues, movements to do away with his holiday and other attacks on his character as an Italian explorer. We need to reinvent our Columbus Day celebration.



Here are some ideas:

1. Let's have a bocce tournament with an entry fee and cash prizes. Teams of 4 would pay a \$5 per player entry fee, winning teams would get 50% of the pot, 2nd 30% and 3rd 20%. Signups would be at the October meeting.
2. Let's have a bocce tournament for junior members with prizes.
3. Let's have bingo for those who do not want to play bocce. The lodge can furnish prizes and while bocce is going on others can play bingo.

Let's make Columbus Day an event we want to attend versus we are Italian therefore we need to be doing something to celebrate Columbus Day! If you have ideas let us know.

## 90th Anniversary

We need to start planning the 90th Anniversary celebration of the lodge. Remembering Roma Lodge members range in age from a few months to 97 years of age so we need to be innovative in how we can celebrate the long history of the lodge and make it an event where all our members will enjoy.

Of course it starts with good food and at our 80th our younger members did a wonderful job of providing homemade ravioli. So we have a lot of planning to do to make our 90th celebration something special. Let us know if you are willing to help and what you would like to see us do .



## Happy Birthday!

**Agnes Pelous** celebrated her 97th birthday on July 17th. Agnes is now our most senior member of Roma Lodge and is a 55 year member. Agnes, along with husband Alex, who passed away in 2007, were long time members who did a great deal for the lodge. They are proud of their Italian heritage and always contributed to helping out at lodge activities. **Congratulations to Agnes and the entire Pelous Family!**



Also celebrating a birthday in July was **Corrine Canata**. Corrine turned 42 on July 12th. Corrine is a 14 year member of the lodge and is the daughter of Nick and Kathy Canata. **Congratulations Corrine!**

**Grace Solari** celebrated her 16th birthday on July 21st. Grace is a 15 year member of the lodge and lives in Lodi. Her mother **Kim** and father **Tony** are also members of the lodge.



## Sunshine News-Bad Break



Roma Lodge member **Audriana Solari** was visiting her grandparents **Dawn and Gary Dutto** recently and within the first 15 minutes of her visit she fell down the stairs and broke her ankle.

We also were informed that member **Trudi Briano** had a fall and tore all the ligaments in her ankle.

If you know someone with health issues please give **Joann Beecher** a call at **688-8380** so she can send them a card from Roma Lodge.

## Harlow Emerson DePaoli

**Harlow Emerson DePaoli** was born on July 7, 2019. Harlow weighed 7lbs, 11 oz and measured 22 inches long. She is the daughter of Roma Lodge members **Michael and Leslie DePaoli** and joins sisters **Harper and Hayden**. Harlow, along with her sisters, joins **Adelyn, Giulia, Kate, Isabel and Gianna** as the 8th granddaughter of **David and Giovanna DePaoli**. **Congratulations to Michael and Leslie!**



## Farewell Sister Sylvia

It has been ten years since the members of the Santa Barbara Lodge closed and their remaining members joined Roma Lodge. **Sylvia Signorelli** passed away on May 19th at the age of 85. Sylvia along with husband Joe was a 66 year member of the Order.

Sylvia was born in Lompoc in 1933 and married Joe Signorelli, Sr., a fellow Lompoc native, in 1953. She was an avid outdoorswoman who enjoyed joining her family on hunting and fishing trips. She also loved working the ground and cattle with her husband, Joe, on their ranches in the Lompoc area for over sixty years. Sylvia was an extremely hard worker, stood firm in her convictions and never met a challenge she could not overcome. Together with her husband, they raised three hardworking boys, Joe Jr., Adam and Tom.

Although Joe and Sylvia were unable to attend Roma Lodge activities they enjoyed reading the **Le-Notizie** each month. Joe is now our longest tenured member of the Order who has been a member of either the Lompoc, Santa Barbara or Roma Lodge for 83 years.





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Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

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Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Rob Pinkerton	(331-3183)

### Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Toni Pinkerton	(331-3183)

## August Meeting August 5th

6:30 PM-Dinner

## Junior Member Night



## Dutto-Luis-Cleek-Gentry Summer BBQ

Great Food-Great Time!